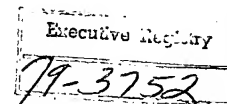


OTR 79-3705
20 March 1979



MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Administration

151 Do1 W.
3/26

25X1

FROM:
Chairman, Language Development Committee

SUBJECT: Report of the Language Development Committee
for Fiscal Year 1978

DD/A Registry
File Training

25X

1. Action Requested: None. This memorandum transmits
the Annual Report for the Language Development Committee
(LDC) for FY 1978.

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2. Background: In 1966 the DCI was concerned with
the loss of language skills and established the Language
Development Committee with a Chairman from the Office of
Training and representatives from each Directorate. The
Committee was tasked to monitor and report on language
capabilities and needs and to initiate a system of incen-
tives which became the Language Proficiency Cash Awards
Program.

25X1

The Committee has reported annually and there is
attached hereto the report for FY 1978. It contains an
analysis of the Agency's foreign language skills inventory,
examines staffing in terms of requirements, reports on the
foreign language skills of new employees, language training
during the period, and the Language Proficiency Cash Awards
Program.

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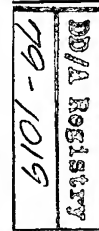
Notwithstanding the work of the LDC, the Agency
has witnessed a relatively slow, but steady, decline in the
number of personnel who can read or speak foreign languages
at the professional levels,* particularly individuals with

*Levels 3 through 5--Minimum Professional Proficiency
(S-3 and R-3), Full Professional Proficiency (S-4 and R-4),
and Native or Bilingual Proficiency (S-5 and R-5). Definitions
of proficiency levels are contained in the Report.

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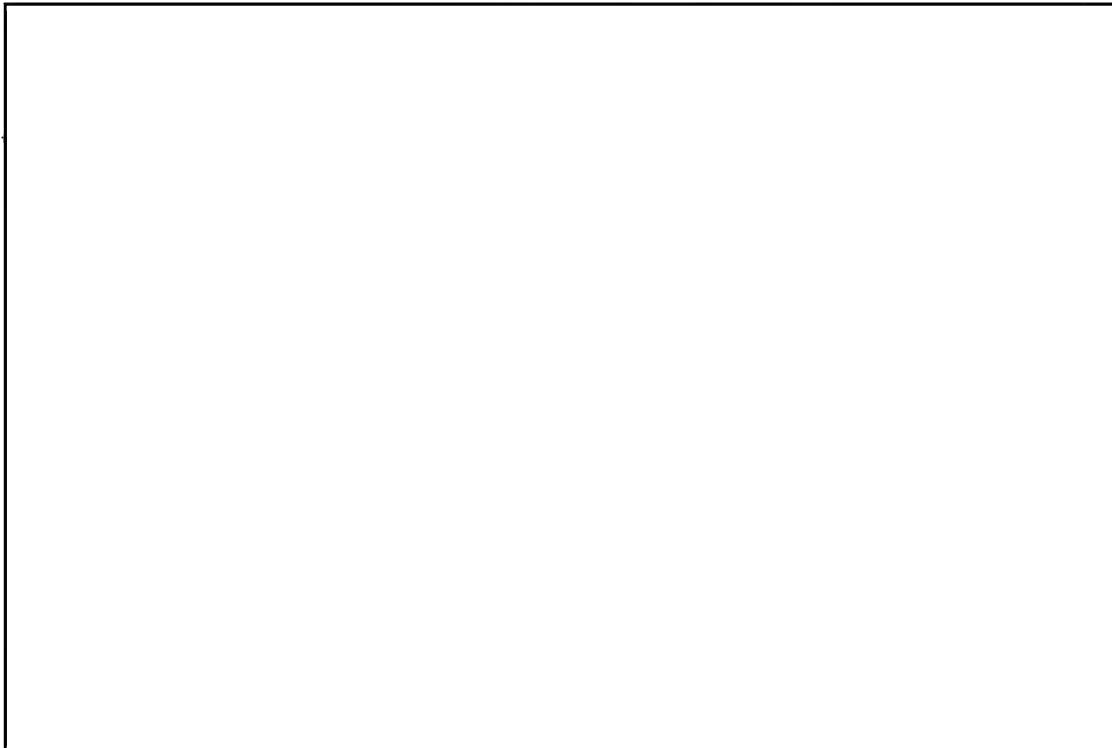


SUBJECT: Report of the Language Development Committee
for Fiscal Year 1978

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native or bilingual language skills. The following table, which addressed speaking skills only, provides a quick sketch of this trend.

X1



It is obvious that the leaching out of CIA's language capabilities is an adverse trend, but its impact on Agency operations is not an assessment which the LDC can make. From 1966 to date, the period covered by the above table, the number of tested foreign language skills at the professional levels decreased by 23%, but the total strength of the Agency fell from a high today--a decrease of 23.8%.

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[illegible]

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~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Report of the Language Development Committee
for Fiscal Year 1978

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The FY 1978 LDC Report is noted:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

Distribution:

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- 1 - DDCI, w/o att
- 1 - ER, w/o att
- 1 - DDA, w/o att

~~SECRET~~